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JC923 U.S. PTO

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JC825 U.S. PTO
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November 8, 2000

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of **Peter Paul Frans REUSENS**

SPLITTER FOR ANALOG TELEPHONE SIGNAL AND DIGITAL DATA
Our Ref. Q61361

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 20 sheets of the specification, claims and abstract, 3 sheets of formal drawings, executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney. Also enclosed is the Information Disclosure Statement.

Please see attached preliminary amendment before calculating Government filing fee.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>27</u> - 20	=	<u>7</u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>\$126.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>3</u> - 3	=	<u>0</u>	x	\$80.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Base Fee							\$710.00
TOTAL FILING FEE							\$836.00
Recordation of Assignment							\$40.00
TOTAL FEE							\$876.00

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$836.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from November 19, 1999 based on European Application No. 99402898.3. The priority document will be filed at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant

By: David J. Cushing
David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: SPLITTER FOR ANALOG TELEPHONE SIGNAL AND DIGITAL DATA

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

after line 16, insert the heading **--Detailed Description of the Invention--**.

Claim 7, line 1, delete “one of claims 1 to 4” and insert --claim 1--.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket Q61361

- Claim 10, line 1, delete “or 9”.
- Claim 11, line 1, delete “or 9”.
- Claim 12, line 1, delete “one of claims 8 to 11” and insert --claim 8--.
- Claim 13, line 1, delete “one of claims 8 to 12” and insert --claim 8--.
- Claim 14, line 1, delete “one of claims 8 to 11” and insert --claim 8--.
- Claim 15, line 1, delete “one of claims 8 to 14” and insert --claim 8--.
- Claim 16, line 1, delete “one of claims 8 to 15” and insert --claim 8--.
- Claim 20, line 1, delete “18 or 19,”.
- Claim 21, line 1, delete “18 or 19,”.
- Claim 22, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 21” and insert --claim 17--.
- Claim 23, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 22” and insert --claim 17--.
- Claim 24, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 21” and insert --claim 17--.
- Claim 25, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 24” and insert --claim 17--.
- Claim 26, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 25” and insert - claim 17--.
- Claim 27, line 1, delete “one of claims 17 to 26” and insert --claim 17--.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

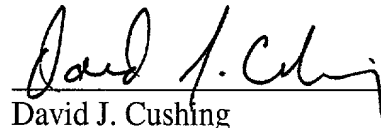
After the heading, delete the title in its entirety.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q61361

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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SPLITTER FOR ANALOG TELEPHONE SIGNAL AND DIGITAL DATA

The invention relates to simultaneous transmission of an analogue telephone signal and digital data over a twisted pair telephone line between a
5 central office (CO) and customer premises (CP).

According to the ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) principles, it is known to transfer the telephone signal and digital data in different frequency bands: Fig. 1 shows the proposed spectrum according to ADSL, with bands TB, UDB and DDB. Frequency (F) is plotted on the horizontal axis of the diagram,
10 and amplitude (A) is plotted on the vertical axis. TB stands for Telephone Band and is the band used for bi-directional transmission of usual POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) analogue signals. UDB and DDB respectively stand for upstream transmission digital data band and downstream transmission digital data band; UDB is the frequency band reserved for upstream transmission of
15 digital data (from customer premises to central office). DDB is the frequency band reserved for downstream transmission of digital data (from central office to customer premises). In practice the UDB and DDB can be organised with spectral overlap, either partially or fully, called echo-cancelled duplexing or with a full separation between UDB and DDB, called frequency division duplexing.

20 In the central office (CO) of the system and at the customer premises (CP), a splitter (SPLIT) is provided including a low pass filter and a high pass filter to separate the telephone signal and the digital data. This is called frequency division multiplexing.

In such a known ADSL-like system, the ringing signal sent from the
25 central office (CO) to the customer premises (CP) to announce an incoming telephone call has a voltage around 70 Volt RMS, as usual in POTS. This signal is directly used for driving the ringer of the telephone. In most existing implementations it has therefore a rectangular shape, or more specifically sharp edges, and contains consequently disturbing high frequency components. It is
30 sent over the telephone line in parallel with the digital data. As a comparison, POTS AC signal, apart from the DC ringing signals, have a power around 1 mW or less than 1 V RMS on 600 Ohm, while ADSL AC signals have a power

around 100 mW or less than 3 V RMS on the characteristic impedance of 100 Ohm.

5 A known ADSL system is disclosed in *the contribution to the ANSI (American National Standard Institute) standard T1E1.4 on ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) with reference T1.E1.4/93-025. This standard contribution is entitled 'VLSI DMT Implementation for ADSL' and originates from Amati Communications Corporation.* Therein, the central office unit and remote terminal (or customer premises) of an ADSL system consist of a digital interface, a digital signal processor and an analogue interface. The analogue
10 interface of the known system comprises a POTS Splitter, connected to the telephone line, to an ADSL arrangement, and to a POTS arrangement. The splitter separates signals incoming from the telephone line: it directs digital data to the ADSL arrangement, and the analogue POTS signals to the POTS arrangement. For outgoing signals, the splitter combines digital data signals
15 coming from the ADSL arrangement and POTS signals coming from the POTS arrangement. The POTS arrangement as well as the ADSL arrangement each contain a transmitting path and a receiving path. The receiving path, as is illustrated for the ADSL arrangement in this contribution, includes line coupling circuitry, a filter and automatic gain controller, an analogue to digital converter
20 ADC and a digital processor. Similarly, the transmitting path of the ADSL arrangement of the cited standard contribution includes a digital signal processor, a digital to analogue converter DAC, a filter, amplifier and line coupling circuitry.

25 The invention addresses the problem of splitting the analogue and digital signals in such a telephone system where analogue telephony signals and digital data are frequency multiplexed. It is based on the recognition that the cost of the splitter is increased due to the fact that the splitter has to separate a high voltage ringing signal and digital data. In addition, the rectangular shape of the ringing signal produces high frequency harmonics that are perceived as
30 impulsive noise disturbing the digital data transmission. Furthermore, the ringing signal although sinusoidal at the source, is received at the remote end in many parallel ringing circuits of the individual telephones at the customer

analogue telephone signals and digital data signals, a digital data signals device connected to the splitter for transmitting and receiving digital data signals, and an analogue telephone signals device connected to the splitter for transmitting and receiving analogue data signals, wherein the analogue telephone signals device transmits a ringing indication signal for announcing an incoming telephone call, said ringing indication signal having a voltage amplitude less than 30 V RMS.

In one embodiment, the analogue telephone signals device transmits a ringing signal for announcing an incoming telephone call when said digital data
10 signals device does not receive digital data signals, said ringing signal having a voltage amplitude higher than said ringing indication signal.

The splitter may also comprise a low pass filter for filtering analogue telephone signals, and a high pass filter for filtering digital data signals, the order of said low pass and high pass filters being less than 5, and preferably less than 2 or equal to 2.

The invention also provides a splitter for transmitting and receiving over a line port frequency multiplexed analogue telephone signals and digital data signals, said splitter comprising means for demultiplexing and multiplexing analogue telephone signals and digital data signals, a telephone port for transmitting and receiving analogue telephone signals to and from said demultiplexing and multiplexing means, and ringing signal generation means for generating a ringing signal applied to the telephone port when a ringing indication signal is received over said line port, said ringing signal having a voltage amplitude higher than said ringing indication signal.

25 Preferably, the splitter further comprises switching means for isolating said telephone port from said line port when a ringing signal is generated and applied to said telephone port.

The demultiplexing and multiplexing means may comprise a low pass filter for filtering analogue telephone signals, and a high pass filter for filtering digital data signals, the order of said low pass and high pass filters being less than 5, and preferably less than 2 or 2.

The splitter may also comprise a digital data signals port for transmitting and receiving digital data signals to and from said demultiplexing and multiplexing means, switching means between said digital data signals port and said line port, and power detection means for detecting improper power supply to the splitter and for opening said switching means when improper power supply is detected.

A telephony system embodying the invention will now be described, by way of non-limiting example only, and in reference to the drawings, where:

Fig. 1 shows a possible FDD frequency spectrum used in ADSL, above the telephone band;

Fig. 2 is a schematic view of a telephone system using a splitter according to the invention, with a regular splitter at the central office; and

Fig. 3 is a schematic view of a telephone system using a splitter according to the invention, but with a single integrated driver at the central office, able to send all needed combination of signals to the telephone and the digital data receiver.

The invention is based on the recognition that the design of the splitter is easier where the voltage of the ringing signal is lower than the voltage presently proposed. It therefore suggests replacing the ringing signal with a ringing indication signal with reduced amplitude; the ringing indication signal is not used for directly driving the ringer of a telephone, and may therefore have any detectable shape. In a preferred embodiment, the invention makes it possible to maintain usual telephone service, with the usual ringing signal, including the correct cadence of this ringing signal.

Using a ringing indication signal with reduced amplitude, and with a non-rectangular shape makes it possible to simplify the filters used in the splitters. The order of the low pass filters and high pass filters in the splitters can be reduced significantly, from 7 to as low as 2. The filters may thus have an order less than 5 in all instances, and preferably an order of 2. This also makes it possible to reduce the frequency gap between POTS and digital bands. This statement applies to both the splitter low pass filter at the customer side and at the central office side if present, as in Fig. 2.

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5 Splitter 6, as discussed below, has functionality for splitting telephone signals and digital data in the upstream direction and for combining telephone signals and digital data in the downstream direction. In other words, the splitter carries out multiplexing and demultiplexing of the frequency multiplexed signals. More specifically, splitter 6 contains means for filtering telephone signals and
10 digital signal; the filtering means are connected to the line 3. In the embodiment of Fig. 2, the filtering means comprise a low pass frequency filter LF2 10, that passes the telephone band TB and not the digital bands UDB and DDB. The filtering means further comprise a high pass frequency filter HF2 12, that passes the digital bands UDB and DDB, but not the telephone band TB.

Fig. 3 is a similar schematic view of a telephone system using a splitter
30 according to the invention, where only the parts of the installation necessary for
the understanding of the invention are shown and discussed. Fig. 3 (just like
Fig. 2) shows an installation 4 at the central office, the installation 2 at the

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and a typical value of 3 V RMS ensure that the ringing indication signal remains easily detectable. Indeed, a ringing indication signal with a power of less than 0.4 mW would be difficult to detect with simple components and at a low cost ; this power corresponds to a lower voltage amplitude range from 0.2 to 0.5 V RMS, for a characteristic impedance between 100 and 600 Ω , in view of the well known relation $P=V^2/R$.

In addition, the ringing indication signal does not need have a rectangular shape, but may have any shape that makes the signal detectable. It is preferable to use a signal having a shape smoother than a rectangular shape, that is a shape that does not generate high frequency components. With a rectangular shape of the prior art, the ringing signal (e.g. through a relay) generates an impulsive disturbance of the ADSL signals at both begin and end. When the ringing indication signal is generated in a single driver, able to send also the AC and DC of the POTS (as in Fig. 2) or from a driver 5 able to send AC and DC of POTS and ADSL simultaneously (as in Fig. 3) , the shaping can be easily accomplished.

The ringing indication signal may have an ultra-low frequency, that is a frequency below the telephony band, like the currently used ringing signal, that has a frequency around 30 Hz. Alternatively, the ringing indication signal may have a frequency equal to the frequency of one of the data carriers defined for the transmission of the digital signals, but outside of the used transmission band of the digital signals. This would be advantageous for the single AC driver 5 of Fig. 3. Because all carriers are orthogonal in a DMT (digital multi tone) based ADSL, there is no disturbance of data traffic by a ringing indication signal with such a frequency. In the ADSL system standardised by ANSI and ITU, the data carriers have a frequency that is an integer multiple of 4.3125 kHz, and are transferred at a nominal power of 0.43125 mW. The first data carrier is located at 4.3125 kHz, which is just above the usual telephony band, and when transmitted with a power of 0.43125 mW would constitute an appropriate and easily detectable ringing indication signal.

In the case of Fig. 3, the operation of installation 4 at the central office side is similar to the operation of installation 1, as far as results are concerned. However, the signals are not generated by separate components, but by the integrated driver 5, and if necessary, by the optional full ringer 7. The integrated driver 5 issues POTS AC, DC, ringing indication, optional full ringing and ADSL AC signals. The optional full ringer 7 may be needed where integrated driver is not able to send full ringing signals.

The operation of installation 2 at customer premises is identical for the embodiments of figures 2 and 3. Installation 2 at the customer premises comprises a splitter 30. The splitter 30 is connected to line 3. It is also connected to a telephone 32, e. g. a traditional telephone apparatus. Splitter 30 is further connected to a device for generating digital data, e. g. an ADSL modem 34. The modem may for instance be adapted to transmit and receive digital data, in accordance with American ADSL standard ANSI T1E1.413. There is also shown on Fig. 2 a power supply device 36, for powering splitter 30. This device may comprise a battery or the like, or the customer's home electrical network. The same power supply device 36 could be used for powering ADSL modem 34.

Splitter 30 has the following functionality. For upstream transmission, it may, like a splitter of the art, combine signals originating from both the telephone 32 and the ADSL modem 34, and transmit the frequency multiplexed signals to the central office 1, over line 3.

For downstream transmission, splitter 30, when receiving a ringing indication signal representative of an announcement of a POTS call, generates locally a ringing signal having the usual amplitude, and applies this signal to telephone 32. This makes it possible to use a standard telephone set with the splitter. In addition, splitter 30 separates incoming POTS and ADSL signals; it transmits POTS signals to the telephone, and ADSL signals to ADSL modem 34.

Thus, splitter 30 carries out multiplexing and demultiplexing of analogue telephone signals and digital data signals. It also generates and applies to the telephone the ringing signal, when a ringing indication signal is detected.

According to the invention, the use of a ringing indication signal, having lower amplitude, makes it possible to reduce the order of the low pass filter and high pass filter used in the splitter. Typically a filter of the 2nd order may be used for a ringing indication signal having a voltage amplitude below 10 V RMS with
5 no detectable signal in the frequency band used for the ADSL (where the frequency of the ringing indication signal is below the telephone band). This may easily be checked, either with a spectrometer in the digital signals transmission band, or by measuring error rates for digital transmission, with and without the ringing indication signal.

10 The invention also makes it possible to reduce the frequency gap between POTS and ADSL bands. In the prior art, the band of the low-pass filter of the splitter usually extends up to 10 to 12 kHz, although the POTS signals are actually limited to 3.4 kHz, while UDB and DDB bands start from a frequency of 30 kHz. The gap between ADSL and POTS is therefore around 26
15 kHz. According to the invention, this ADSL signal could start above 20 kHz, while still ensuring enough rejection in each band.

The detailed structure of the splitter in the preferred embodiment of the invention is now described. In the preferred embodiment of Fig. 2, the splitter includes means for indicating to the central office 1 that the splitter 30 has failed
20 (most often, when the AC mains voltage is not available). This makes it possible to change to normal operation, with a high voltage ringing signal.

The splitter comprises a low pass filter LF1 38, connected to port LT for line 3. In addition, low pass filter 38 is connected to port PT for telephone 32, via a switch S1 40. The splitter comprises a high pass filter HF1 42, connected
25 to port DT for digital signals, and connected to port LT for line 3 via a switch S2 44.

Detecting means 46 for detecting ringing indication signal are connected between switch 40 and low pass filter 38. Detecting means 46 output a signal representative of the presence of a ringing indication signal to ringing signal
30 generation means 48. Detecting means 46 further control switch 40.

Ringing signal generation means 48 receive from detecting means 46 the signal representative of the presence of a ringing indication signal. They are

Last, the splitter 30 comprises power detecting means 50, connected to the power supply device 36 for detecting whether splitter 2 receives appropriate power. Power detecting means control switch 44, as explained below. Power detecting means and switch 44 allow the system to switch to usual operation with a standard ringing signal, as indicated below.

When receiving this signal, the ringing signal generating means 48 output a ringing signal of the usual type. Since the switch 40 is open, the ringing signal is only applied to the phone port 32 and to the phone. It is not applied to line 3, nor to high pass filter 42. The ringing signal is applied at the cadence of the ringing indication signal, till the phone 32 goes off-hook or until the ringing indication stops. The ringing signal is then stopped, and switch 40 is again closed. The splitter then operates as a known splitter, independently whether the telephone is left on-hook or was taken off-hook: it combines analogue signals (AC and DC) from the phone and digital signals from the ADSL modem, and transmits frequency multiplexed signals over line 3 for upstream transmission. For downstream transmission, it receives frequency multiplexed signals from line 3, and forwards telephone band signals to telephone port, and digital signals to ADSL modem port.

When power supply fails, or more generally when the splitter does not operate, switch 44 is opened by power detecting means 50. In this case, ADSL 30 modem is separated from line 3, so that digital data transmission is stopped. This may be detected at the central office 1, as an indication that splitter 30 does not operate, and that a standard ringing signal should be used. In this

case, the use of a standard ringing signal will not be a problem, digital data transmission being interrupted.

5 The power detecting means and the switch 44 could be done without. This could be the case where splitter 30 is powered by the same power supply as the ADSL modem 34. Failure of the power supply would in this case be indicative of the fact that a ringing signal with the usual amplitude should be used. At the central office, the ADSL device 18 may detect lack of any digital signal on line 3, and transmit this to POTS device 14, as indicated by arrow 20. Thus, telephone service may be maintained, even if power supply fails at the customer's premises. One may also decide to use a standard ringing signal, when no digital data transmission is taking place.

The invention thus ensures telephone operation including ringing, even in case of failure of local power supply.

15 The invention was described in reference to the preferred ADSL embodiment. It applies to other types of multiplexed telephone systems. It is of course optional to include the POTS device and the ADSL device in the same line card, at the central office. One could also include the ADSL modem or the like in the splitter.

20 While the principles of the invention have been described above in connection with specific apparatus, it is to be clearly understood that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation on the scope of the invention.

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Abstract

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Abstract

[illegible]

14. The installation of one of claims 8 to 11,
wherein the ringing indication signal has a frequency that is the
frequency of a data carrier for the digital signals.

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15. The installation of one of claims 8 to 14,
wherein the analogue telephone signals device (14) transmits a ringing
signal for announcing an incoming telephone call when said digital data signals
device does not receive digital data signals, said ringing signal having a voltage
10 amplitude higher than said ringing indication signal.

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16. The installation of one of claims 8 to 15,
wherein said splitter (6) comprises a low pass filter (10) for filtering
analogue telephone signals, and a high pass filter (12) for filtering digital data
15 signals, and wherein the order of said low pass and high pass filters is less than
5, and preferably less than 2 or 2.

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17. A splitter (30) for transmitting and receiving over a line port
frequency multiplexed analogue telephone signals and digital data signals, said
20 splitter comprising means (38, 42) for demultiplexing and multiplexing analogue
telephone signals and digital data signals, a telephone port for transmitting and
receiving analogue telephone signals to and from said demultiplexing and
multiplexing means, and ringing signal generation means (48) for generating a
ringing signal applied to the telephone port when a ringing indication signal is
25 received over said line port, said ringing signal having a voltage amplitude
higher than said ringing indication signal.

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18. The splitter according to claim 17,
wherein said ringing indication signal has a voltage amplitude less than
30 30 V RMS.

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19. The splitter of claim 17,

20. The splitter of claim 17, 18 or 19,
5 wherein said ringing indication signal has a voltage amplitude higher than 1 V RMS.

22. The splitter of one of claims 17 to 21,
wherein the ringing indication signal has a spectrum causing no
detectable components in the frequency band for digital data signals.

20 24. The splitter of one of claims 17 to 21,
 wherein the ringing indication signal has a frequency that is the
 frequency of a data carrier for the digital signals.

26. The splitter of one of claims 17 to 25,
30 wherein said demultiplexing and multiplexing means comprise a low pass filter (38) for filtering analogue telephone signals, and a high pass filter

ABSTRACT

SPLITTER FOR ANALOG TELEPHONE SIGNAL AND DIGITAL DATA

5 The invention relates to a telephone system where frequency
multiplexed analogue telephone signals and digital data signals are transmitted
over a line (3). Incoming calls are announced to the customer installation (2) by
a ringing indication signal having an amplitude between 1 and 30 V RMS, that
is much less than the regular ringing and therefore easier to be generated, and
10 moreover having a smoother shape than a rectangular shape. Upon receiving
the ringing indication signal, the customer installation (2) locally generates and
provides a full ringing signal to a telephone (32). The amplitude of this local
ringing signal is higher than the amplitude of the ringing indication signal, but
the line with the digital data signal is isolated from the customer telephone
15 equipment at the time the ringing signal is generated, so as to avoid
disturbance of the digital data transmission by the ringing current, which is in
the prior art a serious source of impulsive noise.

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Fig. 1

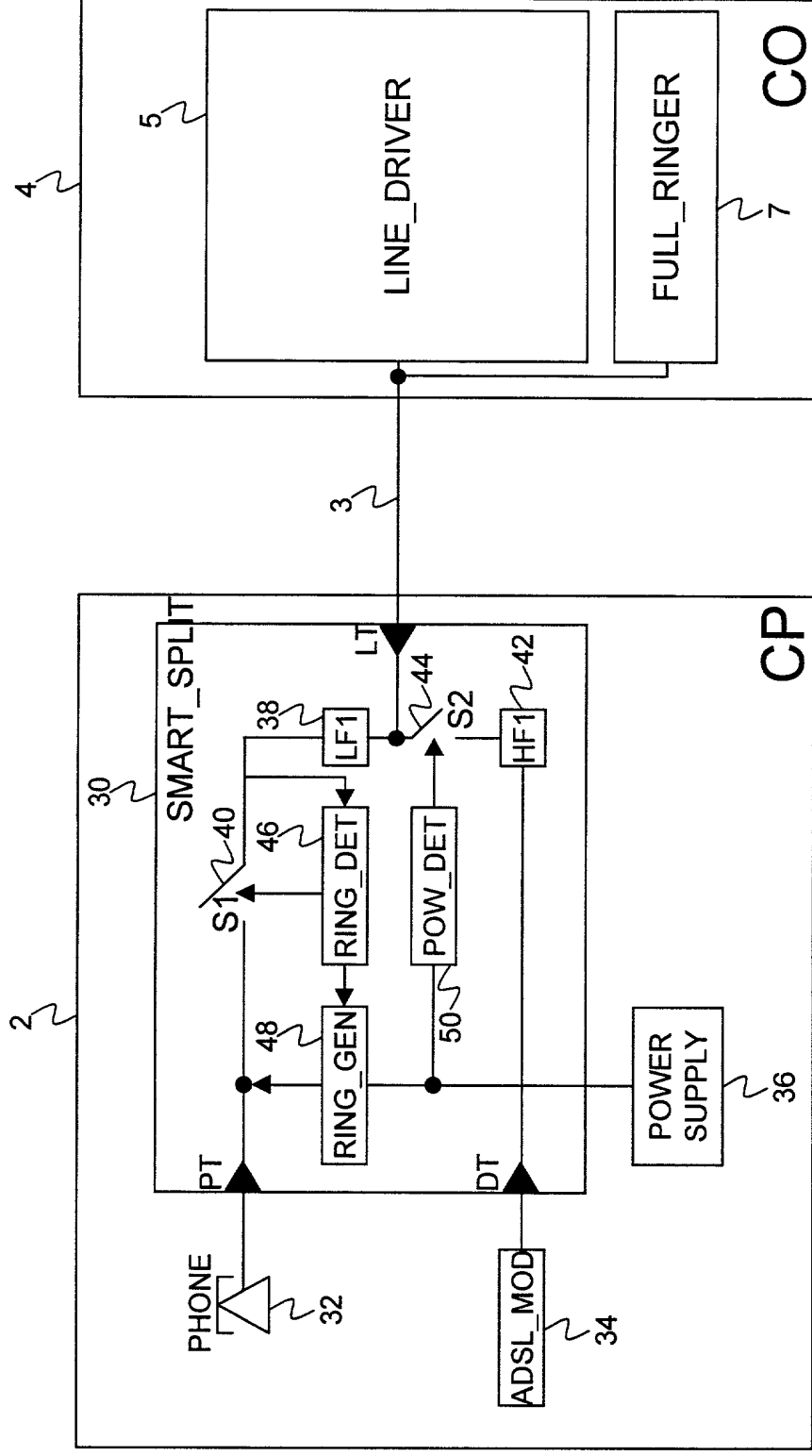


Fig. 3

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

SPLITTER FOR ANALOG TELEPHONE SIGNAL AND DIGITAL DATA

which application is:

☒ the attached application
(for original application)

☐ Application No. _____
filed , and amended on _____

(for declaration not accompanying application)

that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, that I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any provisional application or foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified on said list any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of any foreign application on which priority is claimed:

Application Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
99402898.3 /	EUROPE ✓	NOVEMBER 19, 1999 /	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any information material to the patentability of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status
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I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292; Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 25,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg. No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765; Robert M. Masters, Reg. No. 35,603; George F. Lehnigk, Reg. No. 36,359; John T. Callahan, Reg. No. 32,607 and Steven M. Gruskin, Reg. No. 36,818, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to **SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC**, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3213.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date October 16, 2000 First Inventor Peter Paul Frans REUSENS
Residence Laarne Belgium Signature Peter Paul Frans Reusens
City State/Country

Post Office Address: Warande 21 - B-9270 LAARNE BELGIUM

Citizenship BELGIUM